



Forecast

FEBRUARY 2012

NEWSLETTER FOR THE TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

In This Issue

Mayor's Greetings

Calendar

-page 2-

Crimewatch

Town Events

Chili Dinner

-page 3-

Public Hearings

Street Lights

Land Conservation

-page 4-

Committee Corner

Community Relations

Long Range Planning

Climate and Environment

-page 5-

Around and About Chevy Chase

CC@H

Lawton Center

CCHS

Chevy Chase Library

-page 6-

Town Teens

-page 7-



FY13 BUDGET PROCESS UNDERWAY

Town Seeks Resident Input

The Town is preparing its FY13 budget and has scheduled a series of planning meetings, outlined below, to determine priorities and allocate resources for the coming year. The Town's fiscal situation has improved this year, and we expect to receive considerably more State income tax revenue than originally budgeted for FY12, which runs from July 1, 2011 to June 31, 2012. The Town's portion of State income tax, which is set by the State, represents the largest revenue source that the Town receives and recently has comprised almost 90 percent of total annual revenue.

Residents are invited to attend all of the budget meetings, but are particularly encouraged to attend those that allow public participation and comment, including the March 14 public meeting during the regular Council meeting and the May 1 public hearing during the Town's Annual Meeting. All meetings will be held in the Town Hall beginning at 7 p.m., except for the Annual Meeting, which will be held in the Lawton Center Social Hall.

In addition to, or in lieu of, attending these meetings, residents may submit comments and suggestions on the FY13 budget by mail to 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815 or by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 for more information.

March 14 Public Meeting on Budget

March 28 Council Budget Work Session

April 11 Approval of Proposed Budget and Tax Rates

May 1 Public Hearing on Proposed Budget and Tax Rates

May 9 Adoption of Budget and Tax Rates

Town Election 2012

Mayor David Lublin has reappointed Brenda Lizzio as the chair of the Election Board for the coming year. She will serve with Ed Finn and Cory Modlin, whom the Council appointed to fill the seat of retiring board member Hope Pinkerton. Eight weeks before the May 1 Town election, a notice concerning the election will be mailed to all residents. For more information about election procedures, visit the Town website, www.townofchevyCHASE.org, or call 301-654-7144.

The FORECAST is published monthly by the Town of Chevy Chase, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; email: townoffice@townofchevyCHASE.org; phone: 301-654-7144; Kathy Strom, Editor. Copies are mailed to each address in the Town and posted on the Town website, www.townofchevyCHASE.org.

Greetings from the Mayor

David Lublin

This month, I am pleased to report that the Town has made significant progress in addressing many of the dark areas in Town through the addition of new street lights. The Council has approved 15 new lights to date. Seven have already been installed, and eight more were recently approved and are awaiting installation. At its January meeting, the Council determined that more public input was needed for three proposed lights and will hold a public hearing in February for this purpose. More information about this hearing appears on page 4 of this newsletter.

Last October, in response to resident requests and concerns, the Council decided to move forward with installing new lights primarily in locations identified as dark areas by the Town's street lighting evaluation and improvement study. Since the Town must pay Pepco for any new lights, the Council established a budget of \$20,000 for this fiscal year. Several Councilmembers have expressed a willingness to increase funding if the costs of requests exceed this amount as the Town has received more revenue than originally projected for this year.

I want to encourage Town residents to continue to request new street lights by using the form available on the Town's website, though I should explain that the Town may not be able to complete the installation of all requested lights in this fiscal year. The Council considers all requests and prioritizes those located within dark areas and along major commuter routes. As always, please report problems with existing street lights by calling the Town office or using the form available on the Town's website, so that we can work with PEPCO to get the problem fixed.

In the longer term, the Town may consider alternatives such as purchasing the street light network from Pepco in order to enhance the quality and attractiveness of lighting in the Town. Alternative lighting technologies, such as LED, also may allow the Town to save energy and money over the long term. At the current time, Pepco does not use LED lights, and it would take much of the Town's reserves to purchase the Town's street lights from Pepco with the Town receiving a possible return on this investment only over the long term.

Thanks to all our neighbors who have helped the Town take positive steps towards improving pedestrian safety and security by helping assess lighting or requesting new lights for the Town.



February



Thursday, February 2 – Community Relations Committee, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7 – Purple Line Mitigation Advisory Group, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 8 – Council Meeting and Public Hearing, 7 p.m.

Thursday, February 9 – Public Services Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, February 13 – Land Use Committee, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, February 15 – Neighborhood Watch, 7 p.m.

Monday, February 20 – Presidents' Day - Office Closed

Monday, February 20 – Long Range Planning Committee, 7 p.m.

Sunday, February 26 – Chili Dinner, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 28 – Climate and Environment Committee, 7:30 p.m.

Please check the Town website for up-to-date information about the Town.

www.townofchevy Chase.org

Crimewatch

1/10/2012

A resident in the 6800 block of Connecticut Avenue reported that her unlocked car was entered. Nothing was stolen.

1/7/2012

A burglary was reported in the 7100 block of 44th Street. Police were called to a residence when a neighbor discovered that someone had broken into the house. Jewelry and silver were stolen.

1/1/2012

Residents in the 4500 block of Elm Street reported that their car was vandalized. The roof and hood of the car were dented.

12/28/2011

A resident in the 4200 block of Oakridge Lane reported graffiti on the sidewalk in front of his house. The police responded. The police reported graffiti on the wall in front of the 4-H Center, on a porta-potty at a construction site on Lynn Drive, on the pavement on Lynn Drive, on the traffic control box at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and Rosemary Street, and on a house and cars in the 7200 in the block of Connecticut Avenue.

Please report all suspicious activity and crimes to the Montgomery County police at the non-emergency number 301-279-8000. For emergencies or crimes in progress, call 911. In addition, please report incidents to the Town Office at 301-654-7144 so that we can include them in CRIMEWATCH. To make our neighborhood safer, volunteer for the Town's **Neighborhood Watch Program**. Please contact the Town Office at 301-654-7144 to get more information and/or to become a block captain (see article on page 5).

Town Events

Chili Dinner

Sunday, February 26, 5:30 - 7 p.m., CCES

We invite residents of all ages to attend the **Town's 18thth Annual Chili Dinner** at Chevy Chase Elementary School. Once again, we will have a special table for our senior residents, basketball for teens in the gym beginning at 6:15 p.m., and entertainment for our youngest Town residents beginning at 5:45 p.m. Chili will be provided by Hard Times. You will have your choice of meat or vegetarian chili, chili dogs, potato salad, coleslaw and cornbread. The event is free, but we encourage you to bring a food donation for Manna Food Center. *This event is very popular, so you must RSVP to attend. Please email townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 by Wednesday, February 22, to RSVP.*

Preview of Town Events Planned for Spring

The Community Relations Committee is happy to announce the spring lineup of events, which includes: **a drum circle for all ages, breakfast and a walk through Town with the Town arborist, the annual bake-off, an art show, and a reception and play at Roundhouse Theatre.** We will have more details in future issues of the newsletter.

Public Hearings

Proposed New Street Lights

On **February 8**, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on three proposed new street lights in Town. At its January meeting, the Council approved the installation of eight new lights, in addition to the seven that were approved at the December 2011 meeting. At the same meeting, the Council determined that more public input was needed concerning three proposed lights and decided to hold a public hearing for this purpose.

The three new lights would be installed on existing utility poles located across from 4304 Leland Street, in front of 4210 Oakridge Lane and in front of 4314 Willow Lane. Each of these requested lights would be installed in dark areas identified by the Town's street light evaluation and improvement study. The lights would be 70 watt high pressure sodium bulbs with brackets, which cost approximately \$1,200 each to install.

If you are unable to attend the February public hearing to testify in person, you may submit comments by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or by mail to Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, prior to the hearing date. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 for more information.

Resolution To Adopt A Town Land Conservation Program

At its **February 8** meeting, the Town Council will hold a public hearing on a resolution to formally adopt a Town Land Conservation Program. The resolution was introduced at the Council's January meeting.

The proposed Land Conservation Program, developed by the Town's Environment Committee, will enable qualifying Town residents to give gifts of open space to the Town in order to protect that open space in perpetuity. Such voluntary donations, which could provide tax benefits to the donor, would be done through conservation easements or other agreements under which the Town is the named beneficiary, or by conveying land in fee simple to the Town.

The objectives of the program include protecting and expanding Town open spaces and natural resources; protecting the Town's distinctive neighborhood character; and maintaining the Town's mature tree canopy. Features of the program include an open space inventory that identifies certain areas in Town that lend themselves to being protected from development, as well as eligibility guidelines for the Town to accept donations of conservation easements or land in fee simple. The guidelines describe to potential donors the conservation purposes of the program and give examples of types of properties that would be eligible for the program.

The full text of the Land Conservation Program resolution can be found on the Town's website (www.townofchevy Chase.org). If you are unable to attend the February public hearing to testify in person, you may submit comments by e-mail to townoffice@townofchevy Chase.org or by mail to Town Office, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, prior to the hearing date. Please call the Town Office at 301-654-7144 for more information.

Drive Carefully – Speeding Reported

Concerned parents have contacted the Town office to ask that we remind residents to drive carefully on Town streets. We want to work together to ensure the safety of all the children and residents who live in, walk in and visit the Town. Residents on Maple and Oakridge Avenues have reported that drivers are going too fast especially during rush hour when the students are walking to CCES and to bus stops. The police will be doing speed checks throughout Town.

Committee Corner

Community Relations Committee

Block Captains Meeting Open To All Residents

The Town's Neighborhood Watch block captains will hold an organizational meeting on **Wednesday, February 15** at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss block captain responsibilities, training, communication, and recruitment. Residents who are interested in becoming a block captain are encouraged to attend this meeting. To determine if your street needs a block captain, contact the Town office at 301-654-7144.

Long Range Planning Committee

Maryland Transit Administration To Collect Data

With the recent federal approval of the Preliminary Engineering (PE) Phase of the Purple Line project, contractors working with the **Maryland Transit Administration (MTA)** will be conducting a variety of soil rock and groundwater data collection tests along the proposed Purple Line corridor beginning this month and continuing through June 2012.

These tests, undertaken for the purpose of better understanding subsurface soil conditions, will require the drilling of six to twelve inch borings in the ground at select sites and may cause temporary traffic problems. As advised by the MTA, disruptions include the possibility of restricted parking, select travel lane closures, and noises (likened to an idling truck) associated with the use of drilling equipment. During the data collection time period, steel plates will be placed over all boreholes until work is completed, at which time all borings will be patched with like materials.

A majority of this work will take place during weekdays between the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with rare extractions continuing until 5 p.m. Drilling work began in January on the segment of the trail under East-West Highway and at Connecticut Avenue. Work along the trail through the tunnel in Bethesda is expected to begin in April, while work from Pearl Street to East-West Highway is scheduled for May.

Climate and Environment Committee

Energy Trailblazer of the Month: Betsy Hague



"I have worked hard to repair and do everything possible to make our home as energy efficient, knowing that when I reached 65, we may need to live on a fixed income. Being careful with our overhead expenses like energy costs is one clear and easy way to make living here in this lovely house possible for years to come." With electric bills over \$400 per month in summer and mammoth natural gas bills as high as \$720 per month in the winter, Betsy came to believe that given the size, style and age of her home, cutting her energy costs is key to cutting her monthly expenses. By making some pragmatic changes, Betsy was able to cut energy bills by two-thirds while making the home more comfortable on a day-to-day basis. These changes included: Low E-window film, attic insulation and fans, ceiling fans, right sizing the AC condenser, tankless hot water, and Smartstrips electric plugs. Read more about her experience on the Town website.

Please Remember to Shovel Your Sidewalk

After inclement weather, please make sure that the sidewalk adjacent to your house is cleared of snow and ice. If the accumulated snowfall is under 3 inches, you will be responsible for clearing the sidewalk. The Town will assist with the clearing of public sidewalks when snow accumulates to 3 inches or more. This snow removal plan assists residents with clearing sidewalks following significant snowstorms, when help is needed most.

Around and About Chevy Chase

Let CC@H Creatively Banish Mid-Winter Blues

Caroline Michaelis

Chevy Chase At Home sponsors a monthly support group for adult children with aging parents or other relatives. Discussions are wide-ranging with no prescribed subject areas. Dr. Nathan Billig is the group moderator. The group is open to members or to children of members of Chevy Chase At Home and meets on the second Tuesday evening of each month. For more information contact info@chevychaseathome.org or call 301-657-3115.

On **Tuesday, February 7**, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Chevy Chase Village Hall, CC@H's Meet & Mingle will offer some expert advice on choosing the right hearing aid, a very important decision that can be a challenge. Audiologists Carolyn Wyatt and Aurion Dwyer of Carolyn Wyatt Audiology Services in Bethesda will discuss how hearing aids can improve your hearing and how to choose the correct one for your specific problem.

CC@H's Meet & Mingle will present a fascinating program on creativity on **Tuesday, February 21**, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Chevy Chase Village Hall. Our speaker, Dr. Wendy Miller, PhD., LPC, is a sculptor, writer, expressive arts therapist, educator, and expert on creativity and healing. Her talk is entitled "A Conversational Reading: *HeartSong - Finding One's Way Through Creativity, Aging and Illness Time* - writings by Wendy Miller and her late husband Gene Cohen". The book is a joint personal narrative of their own struggle with terminal illness, the challenges met and insights gained.

The monthly Brunch Bunch will get together on **Thursday, February 9**, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Olympia Coffee Shoppe, 7021 Brookville Road. Come join several members of the CC@H Board for coffee and conversation about anything and everything

Save the Date! **Wednesday, March 14** at 7 p.m. "Selecting A Financial Advisor: Planning, Investing and Protecting Your Retirement Years", presented by Glen J. Bucu, Certified Financial Planner.

Weight Training for Seniors

Senior Shape and Suburban Hospital are sponsoring a weight training class for Seniors at the Lawton Center on **Tuesdays from 12:15 to 1 p.m.** from January through March. The class is designed to increase muscular strength and endurance, range of motion and balance. Participants will perform a variety of exercises using weights. For more information or to register, call 301-896-3689.

Chevy Chase Historical Society Seeks Director

The Chevy Chase Historical Society is searching for a part-time director of its Archive and Research Center. The director is an independent contractor and paid on an hourly basis, for approximately 20 hours per week. More information on the position and how to apply may be requested by emailing cfmuck@comcast.net.

Events at the Chevy Chase Library, 8005 Connecticut Ave

Sponsored by the Friends of the Library Chevy Chase

Saturday, February 4, 1 p.m. - Foreign Film, "King of Masks."

Saturday, February 11 - Library Lovers' Events. Valentine making, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Comedy-Magic Show with Tom Lilly of the One Step Magic Company (all ages) 10:30 a.m.; Teen Book Club, 12 - 1 p.m., pizza for lunch (pre-registration required, 240-773-9590), Teen Balloon Sculpting Workshop, 1:30 p.m. (pre-registration required, 240-773-9590).

For a complete calendar of events, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/libraries, News and Events, Calendar.

Join the Town Crier To Receive Alerts and News

The Council encourages residents to join the "**Town Crier**," the Town's e-mail alert system. The purpose of this notification system is to keep residents informed of timely Town news and information. To join, go to the Town website, www.townofchevy Chase.org, and click on the link for the "Town Crier".

Maryland Resident Tax Return 2011 - Form 502

FORM
502

MARYLAND
RESIDENT
INCOME TAX RETURN

OR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING 2011, ENDING

Social Security number		Spouse's Social Security number	
Your First Name	Initial	Last Name	
Spouse's First Name	Initial	Last Name	
Present Address (No. and street)			
City or town		State	Zip Code
Name of county and incorporated city, town or special taxing area in which you resided on the last day of the taxable period. (See instruction 6)		Maryland County	City, Town, or Taxing Area TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE

A major source of revenue that the Town receives each year is the Town's share of income taxes, which each resident pays to the State of Maryland. Remember to write *Town of Chevy Chase* in the box marked city, town or taxing area. If you use a tax form online, please type TOWN OF CH CH in the box (there are not enough spaces for the complete spelling). This will insure that a portion of your tax dollars will return to the Town so that the Town is able to provide municipal services. Do not assume that people at the state level understand the different municipalities that share the 20815 zip code.

www.townofchevy Chase.org

TOWN COUNCIL
David Lublin, Mayor
Kathy Strom, Vice Mayor
Al Lang, Secretary
Linna Barnes, Treasurer
Pat Burda, Community Liaison

Town of Chevy Chase
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